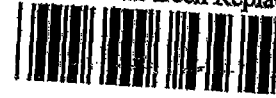


Housing for holding a disc-shaped information carrier.

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The invention relates to a housing for accommodating a disc-shaped information carrier, for example a Compact Disc, having a bottom section, having a cover section connected to said bottom section via two corner hinges, and having a clamping device for holding the information carrier.

5 Such a housing is known, for example from DE-GM 85 23 194. In this known housing the bottom section has two raised side walls in the hinge area, further side walls situated on the cover section and spaced at a smaller distance from one another than the side walls of the bottom section engaging between the last-mentioned side walls. The pivotal coupling between the bottom section and the cover section being formed by pins in side walls
10 of one section which engage bores in side walls of the other section. In the known construction the side walls of the bottom section have recesses having inclined walls, which recesses are engaged by correspondingly shaped inclined side walls of the cover section. In the known construction the narrow front side of the cover section, which faces the hinges, further has two non-positive latching elements which engage with an oppositely inclined
15 portion of the bottom section. Moreover, at its front side which faces the hinges, the bottom section has a receding surface to facilitate opening of the housing.

It is an object of the invention to provide a particularly reliable shock-proof and fracture-proof hinge device in a housing of the type defined in the opening paragraph, which guarantees a simple manufacture and a trouble-free mechanized assembly
20 of the housing.

According to the invention this object is achieved by means of the characteristic features defined in Claim 1.

The hinge arms are formed by extensions of the cover section and by shaping the free end portions in such a manner that the free end portions have a small
25 clearance with respect to the cover section. Thus, it is achieved that these free end portions of the spring arms have a satisfactory resilience, so that pins arranged on the inner sides of the free end portions are engageable in holes in correspondingly shaped hinge walls of the bottom section and thus allow pivotal movement. Consequently, the hinges are no longer situated at the outer surfaces of the housing but at shielded locations in corner recesses of the



bottom section. Owing to the 180° bending of the hinge arms, in accordance with the invention, an ideal possibility is obtained to round the corresponding corners of the cover section.

The invention can be applied both to a housing as claimed in Claim 2,
5 without a special tray, and to a housing as claimed in Claim 3, which comprises a special tray.

The characteristic features defined in Claim 4 allow a particularly simple manufacture. However, as an alternative it is possible to form the pins on the hinge walls of the bottom section and the bores in the free hinge arms. Furthermore, instead of the bores
10 tapered holes may be provided, which are engageable from above.

The characteristic features defined in Claim 5 allow opening up to an angle of approximately 180° or 185°. This prevents the cover from swinging around completely and, consequently, a leaflet accommodated in the cover from falling out.

By means of the characteristic features defined in Claim 6 it is achieved
15 that the cover section can be closed without being obstructed by the projecting stop.

The characteristic features defined in Claim 7 enable a particularly stable and fracture-proof construction for the hinges to be obtained.

By means of the characteristic features defined in Claim 8 it is achieved that the hollow compartment wall forming a grip portion is situated directly opposite
20 corresponding wall portions of the cover, so that an additional protection against breaking of the hinge is obtained in the event of impact forces exerted on the side of the closed housing.

The characteristic features defined in Claim 9 a suitably formed insert can be fitted into the hollow compartment to provide additional stabilization. Another possibility is to adapt this insert for holding special additional elements, for example anti-theft devices
25 or enclosures for sales promotion of the product.

The characteristic features defined in Claim 10 provide a simple possibility of simply constructing such a holder, which can contain for example information material, anti-theft elements or the like, so that it can be retained in said hollow compartment in a reliable manner. If, in addition, there are provided, for example, latching means at the
30 ends, for example barb-shaped elements, in conjunction with suitably shaped openings, an insert of this type, once it has been inserted and latched in place, can hardly be removed without resort to force and without being destroyed. This is particularly advantageous when such a trough-shaped holder accommodates anti-theft means.



Embodiments of the invention are shown diagrammatically, by way of examples, in Figs. 1 to 7 of the drawings.

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a housing which comprises a bottom section and a cover section, the lower half showing the closed housing and the upper half shows the
5 opened housing with one half of the cover being shown at the left,

Fig. 2 is a partly sectional enlarged-scale view of the part Z_1 in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is an enlarged-scale perspective view of this part Z_1 in Fig. 1, viewed from the same direction as in Fig. 4,

Fig. 4 is a perspective top view of the closed housing,

10 Fig. 5 is a perspective underneath view of the closed housing,

Fig. 6 shows a part Z_2 indicated in Fig. 5, and

Fig. 7 shows a tray having a clamping device and adapted to be mounted in a housing.

15 As shown in Fig. 1, the two-part housing comprises a bottom section 10 and a cover section 11, which are articulated to one another by means of two corner hinges 12, 13. The bottom section comprises a centrally disposed clamping device 14 for holding a Compact Disc 15 by clamping. Raised lugs 16 are arranged on the cover section 11 to hold an inserted booklet 16'. Recessed portions 17 facilitate the removal of the Compact Disc 14
20 from the bottom section 10.

As is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, each corner hinge 12, 13 has a hinge arm 18, whose free end portion 19 is bent through 180° towards the cover section 11. This provides the possibility of giving the cover section a convenient curvature in the corner area 20 and, as a result of this, the free end portion 19 becomes resilient in a direction 21.

25 For the flush engagement of the two corner hinges 12, 13 the bottom section 10 has corner recesses 22, between which a downwardly open hollow box-shaped compartment 23 extends (Figs. 5 and 6). The hollow compartment 23 is bounded by hinge walls 24 at the ends, by side walls 25 at the long sides and by a grip portion 26 at the top, which grip portion is coplanar with the cover section 11 and is flush with the latter when the
30 housing is closed. In the present example, the corner hinges comprise pins 19a on the free end portions 19, which pins engage bores 24a in the hinge walls 24.

In a corner of each of the corner recesses 22 a stop 27, which is flush with the outer surface of the bottom section 11, is arranged and lies against the hinge arm in the area 18a when the cover 11 has been opened through an angle of approximately 180° to

185°. An inclined portion 18b prevents the closing movement from being blocked by the stop 27. The stop 27 and the inclined portion 18b are clearly visible particularly in Fig. 6.

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 show a possibility of mounting a trough-shaped holder 28, which is open at the top, in the hollow compartment 23. This holder 28 has resilient end walls 30 formed by means of notches 29, which walls carry barbs 31. When the holder 28 is introduced into the hollow compartment 23 the barbs snap into corresponding recesses 32 in the inner surfaces of the hinge walls 24. The holder 28 closes the hollow compartment 23 and serves for holding various kinds of articles, for example so-called glitter rods which contain a fluid in which particular particles are suspended. Furthermore, such a holder can hold, for example, an anti-theft device. This is particularly advantageous because after the holder 28 has been mounted it is substantially impossible to remove the holder without parts being damaged. Furthermore, paper strips provided with certain information can be placed in the holder 28, which like the bottom section and the cover section is made of a transparent plastic. Such strips can also be wrapped around the holder and can then be inserted into the hollow compartment 23 together with the holder.

Fig. 7 is a plan view which shows a tray 33 which comprises a clamping device 14' for holding an information carrier (15) and which can be mounted in the housing.

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CLAIMS

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1. A two-part housing for holding a disc-shaped information carrier (15), for example a Compact Disc, having a bottom section (10), having a cover section (11) connected to said bottom section via two corner hinges (12, 13), and having a clamping device (14, 14') for holding the information carrier (15), characterized in that
- 5 - the cover section (11) comprises two hinge arms (18) whose free end portions (19) are bent through 180° towards the cover section (11) and are resilient,
- the bottom section (10) has corner recesses (22) adapted to the hinge arms (18),
- the free end portions (19) of the hinge arms (18), which end portions face one another, in conjunction with rigid hinge walls (24) form the corner hinges (12,
- 10 13).
2. A housing as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the clamping device (14) is integral with the bottom section (10).
3. A housing as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the clamping device (14') is formed on a special tray (33) mounted in the housing.
- 15 4. A housing as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the free end portions (19) of the hinge arms (18) have inwardly projecting pins (19a) for engagement in corresponding bores (24a) in the hinge walls (24).
5. A housing as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a projecting stop (27) is arranged in the corner of each corner recess (22) near the outer
- 20 surface of the bottom section (10), which stop abuts against the end surface of a respective hinge arm in an area (18a) near the outer surface of the cover section (11) when the cover section (11) has been opened through an angle of approximately 180°.
6. A housing as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the end surface of the hinge arm (18) has an inclined portion (18b) below the abutment area (18a) for the stop
- 25 (27).
7. A housing as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that an upwardly or downwardly open hollow box-shaped compartment (23) extends between the corner recesses (22) of the bottom section (10) and at its ends has bounding walls (24) formed by the two hinge walls of the corner recesses (22).



8. A housing as claimed in Claim 7, characterized in that in the case of a downwardly open hollow box-shaped compartment (23) the wall (26) facing the open side of the hollow compartment serves as a grip portion, which is coplanar with the cover section (11) when the housing is closed.
- 5 9. A housing as claimed in Claim 7, characterized in that the hollow compartment (23) is formed with latching means (32) to receive and hold an insert (28) adapted to the hollow compartment (27).
10. A housing as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the insert is a trough-shaped holder (28) which is open towards the insertion side and whose end walls (24) are resilient and comprise latching means (31) which cooperate with latching means (32) of the hinge walls (24).
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